

(b) whether any reduction has been made in its strength; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

†[THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Strength in 1960—7.

Strength at present—7.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

GRATUITY SCHEME IN COAL MINES

1568. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 339 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1969 and state:

(a) by when gratuity scheme in coal mines as recommended by the Coal Mines Wage Board will be implemented; and

(b) whether it is a fact that coal mine owners are objecting to its introduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) As already stated in the earlier reply, preliminary work with a view to considering the question of acceptance of the Wage Board's recommendations has been taken up. Efforts are being made to expedite a decision.

(b) No, Madam.

PROSECUTION OF COAL MINES

1569. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal mines which are being prosecuted for irregular payments, non-issue of bonus cards, maintenance of false attendance registers, 'B' forms etc. since 1966; and

(b) what are the results of the prosecution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ABOLITION OF CENTRAL RECRUITING ORGANISATION

1570. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three centres of Trade Unions—AITUC, H.M.S., INTUC have made repeated demands for the abolition of the Central Recruiting Organisation in mines;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to abolish it; and

(c) the number of workers recruited by the C.R.O. in 1966, 1967, 1968 and till June, 1969?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) The question of the future of the Labour Depot Gorakhpur including its dealings with the C.R.O. is under consideration of the National Commission on Labour. The report of the Commission is awaited.

(c) The C.R.O. makes direct recruitment at worksites, and it also recruits workers through the Labour Depot, Gorakhpur. The number of direct recruits of the C.R.O. is not known. The number of workers supplied only through the Depot is as follows:

1966	13,992
1967	12,379
1968	11,307
1969 (upto June 1969)	6,114

ABOLITION OF CONTRACT SYSTEM

1571. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contractors engaged by the management of the Chapui Khas Colliery near Asansol and in which departments;

(b) what are the names of those contractors; and

(c) what steps have been taken to abolish this contract system?